

Message Text

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53

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 NEA-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13 JUSE-00 SNM-02

TRSE-00 OES-06 OMB-01 /111 W
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P 181440Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3439

INFO DEA HQS WASHDC PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY

USLO PEKING PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS PRIORITY

USNATO PRIORITY 1952

UNCLAS COPENHAGEN 3493

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR SNAR KN DA

SUBJ: NORTH KOREAN EXPULSION CASE IS SENSATION IN DENMARK

REF: COPENHAGEN 3485 (BEING REPEATED)

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SUMMARY: DANISH INFO MEDIA CONTINUE TO GIVE EXTENSIVE AND SENSATIONAL PLAY TO THE "PNG'ING" OF THE ENTIRE NORTH KOREAN DIPLOMATIC STAFF HERE FOR ILLEGAL TRAFFICKING IN NARCOTICS, CIGARETTES AND LIQUOR. END SUMMA.

1. NEWS MEDIA OVER WEEKEND WERE FILLED WITH REPORTS OF THE DANISH GOVERNMENT'S "EXPULSION" OF THE ENTIRE NORTH KOREAN EMBASSY STAFF, FROM AMBASSADOR KIM HONG CHUL ON DOWN, ON CHARGES OF USING THEIR DIPLOMATIC STATUS FOR ILLEGALLY TRAFFICKING IN HASHISH, CIGARETTES AND LIQUOR.

2. DANISH GOVERNMENT SPOKESMEN HAVE DECLARED THEIR REGRET OVER THE INCIDENT INVOLVING REPRESENTATIVES OF A COUNTRY WITH WHICH DENMARK ENJOYS "CORDIAL RELATIONS". VIOLATIONS WERE SO FLAGRANT, THE DANES SAID, THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO REQUEST DEPARTURE OF NORTH KOREANS WITHIN SIX DAYS (BY THE EVENING OF OCTOBER 21). SUCH A STEP, EMBRACING AN AMBASSADOR AND ALL HIS STAFF, IS UNPRECEDENTED IN DANISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, AS FAR AS ANYONE CAN REMEMBER.

3. THE PRESS HAS SPECULATED THAT THE NORTH KOREANS IN COPENHAGEN WERE THE HUB IN WHEEL OF SIMILAR ACTIVITY IN MANY EUROPEAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN COUNTRIES AND THAT FUNDS DERIVED FROM THESE CRIMES WERE USED TO FINANCE INTELLIGENCE AND PROPAGANDA ACTIVITIES. FOREIGN MINISTER K.B. ANDERSEN, GUQIED ON THIS POINT, SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE MONEY WAS USED BY NORTH KOREANS IN THIS WAY.

4. ACCORDING TO RHE PRESS, THE NORTH KOREAN THIRD SECRETARY, KIM SUN GIL, HAS DENIED TO REPORTERS ANY GUILT ON THE PART OF THE NORTH KOREANS. OVER THE WEEKEND, THE NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE AND CHANCERY WERE OBJECTS OF CURIOSITY AS MANY DANES USED THEIR FREE TIME TO VISIT SCENES WHERE EGREGIOUS CRIMES WERE COMMITTED. PRESS REPORTS DOOR BELLS WERE IGNORED ALTHOUGH LIGHTS BURNED WITHIN BOTH LOCATIONS. TELEPHONES WERE BEING ANSWERED.

5. DANISH INFO MEDIA HAVE ALSO SPECULATED ON WHAT ACTION
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THE GOVERNMENT OF NORTH KOREA WILL TAKE VIS-A-VIS EXPELLED DIPLOMATS. SOME SAY THAT IF DIPLOMATS ARE PUNISHED IT WILL BE SIGN THAT THEY CARRIED OUT CRIMES IN PRIVATE INTEREST; OTHERWISE, IT MUST BE CONCLUDED THEIR BEHAVIOR WAS ENCOURAGED BY THE STATE.

6. APOLOGISTS FOR NORTH KOREANS FROM DANISH-NORTH KOREAN FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY AND AUTHOR ARNE HERLOV PETERSEN,

SOMETIME TRANSLATOR FOR NORTH KOREANS, SAY THAT AMBASSADOR AND HIS STAFF ALWAYS LIVED FRUGALLY AND GAVE NO INDICATION THAT THEY WERE ENGAGED IN SUCH ACTIVITIES. HERLOV PETERSEN SAID, ACCORDING TO THE OCTOBER 17 SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC DAILY, AKTUELT, THAT HE BELIEVED THE NORTH KOREANS USED MONEY TO FINANCE PROPAGANDA ACTIVITIES AND THEY WERE NOT AWARE OF SERIOUSNESS OR MAGNITUDE OF THEIR CRIMES.

7. TODAY'S PRESS REPORTS THAT A REPLY TO THE DANISH NOTE OF OCTOBER 15 TO THE PYONGYANG GOVERNMENT DECLARING THE NORTH KOREAN DIPLOMATS "PNG" HAS NOT YET BEEN RECEIVED. THE DANISH NOTE WAS DELIVERED BOTH TO THE NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR HERE AND BY THE DANISH AMBASSADOR IN PEKING TO HIS NORTH KOREAN COUNTERPART THERE.
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